



CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS:
1976 - 1997

PETE WILSON
GOVERNOR

BARBARA PIEPER
DIRECTOR

Press Conference Alert **"Art Aboard!"**

California State Railroad Museum to host Artrain Press Conference

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SACRAMENTO: The California Arts Council is pleased to announce that, through its sponsorship, Artrain, America's only touring art museum in a train, is coming to California. Artrain will present its newest traveling exhibition *Art in Celebration!* on the second leg of a three-year tour of the country. Artrain is a unique museum in four rail cars and is the setting for an innovative art and education experience that is offered **free of charge** to the public.

You are invited to attend a Press Conference to be held on:

Friday, January 23, 1998

1 p.m. sharp!

Inside the California State Railroad Museum

Old Sacramento, 111 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2265

Telephone: 916-445-1705

You will be admitted to the Museum at no charge. Press kits will be available on-site.

The press conference serves as the formal announcement and kick-off press event for this visit by Artrain to California. The importance of Artrain's visit to California lies in its ability to attract non-traditional museum audiences as well as established "art lovers." The Artrain also acts as a powerful catalyst in sparking downtown renovations, depot renovations, civic pride, and individual creation. Artrain's visits to communities throughout the nation have resulted in the formation of many arts councils and has nationally promoted the development of regional arts councils, and annual arts festivals.

Present at the press conference will be a representative of **Governor Pete Wilson**; representatives of the main sponsor, the **California Arts Council**; representatives of **Artrain**; representatives from co-sponsors **Target** and **Mervyn's**; and representatives from the **Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission**, the **California State Railroad Museum**, and the **Healdsburg Arts Council**.

The Artrain has traveled to 41 states and has delighted more than 2.5 million adults and children since its first stop in 1971. Artrain is expected to reach more than 500,000 people in 100 communities in 40 states during the *Art in Celebration!* tour. The Artrain will bring world-class artwork to thousands of Californians who may not have access to a traditional metropolitan museum. Artrain strives to create an environment for art that makes it interesting, inspirational and fun for families across America. Among the artists represented in Artrain's exhibition is renowned California artist **Wayne Thiebaud**.

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Art in Celebration! is organized by Artrain with The Smithsonian Associates and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The 1996-1998 national tour, sponsored by Chrysler Corporation, will include stops in cities ranging in size from Detroit, Michigan to White Bear Lake, Minnesota. In addition to the California sponsors, Artrain's tour is underwritten in part by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Artrain is currently set to visit the following California communities on the following designated dates in 1998:

Riverside April 2, 3, 4, 5

Host: Riverside Arts Foundation

Gilroy April 8, 9

Co-host: Arts Council of Santa Clara County

Santa Clara April 10, 11

Co-host: Arts Council of Santa Clara County

Bakersfield April 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Host: Arts Council of Kern

Madera April 23, 24, 25, 26

Host: Madera County Arts Council

Healdsburg April 30, May 1, 2, 3

Co-host: Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County

Sacramento May 7, 8, 9, 10

Host: Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

Dunsmuir May 12

Host: Siskiyou Arts Council

The **California State Railroad Museum** is one of Sacramento's most popular attractions. Operating a series of facilities in Old Sacramento and Jamestown, California, the Museum attracts a half million visitors yearly. The Museum, a California State Park, is supported in its mission by the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, a cooperating association that contributes money and expertise to help carry out the Museum's many programs.

The **California Arts Council**, a state agency established in 1976, promotes artistic awareness and participation in California. The California Arts Council's mission is to promote the arts and serve the people of California. The Arts Council provides technical assistance and grants to artists and nonprofit organizations. Applications are reviewed and rated at public meetings by outside professional peer panels and receive final approval from the appointed 11-member Council. Arts Council members include: Thomas Hall, Chair; James L. Loper, Vice Chair; Dea Spanos Berberian; Edward C. Cazier, Jr.; Iris R. Dart; Doris Fisher; Barbara George; Hugh Hewitt; Janet Karatz; David C. Lizarraga; and A.C. Lyles.

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